sector and training the personnel in the sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the names of industries located in Uttar Pradesh, which have been identified for that purpose and the details of the studies conducted in those industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) There is a scheme to obtain environmental statements from units, including the 17 categories of heavily polluting sector, by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards as per the notification GSR-386(E) dated 22nd April, 1993 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. In the environmental statements, the industry is required to provide information on the water and raw material consumption, pollution generated information on hazardous wastes and solid wastes along with disposal practices and also the impact of pollution control measures on conservation of natural resources. The State Pollution Control Boards have been advised to organise training programmes on preparation of the environmental statement for the entrepreneurs.

(c) No particular industry has been identified for the purpose in Uttar Pradesh. As per the notification under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, all the units located in Uttar Pradesh who seek consent under either the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 or authorisation under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 are required to submit environmental statements to the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board. These units include the heavily polluting sector viz., Sugar, pharmacutical, cement, fertilizer, pesticide, distillery, pulp and paper, thermal power, dyes and intermediates, petrochemicals, tanneries, caustic soda, oil refinery, zinc smelter, aluminium smelter, coppr smelter and integrated iron and steel.

Review of Pooyamkutty Power Project, Kerala

1606. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to review the previous decision of denying clearance for the Pooyamkutty Power Project in Kerala; and

(b) if so, what is the present stage of the review and by when a final decision on the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The proposal for diversion of forest land for Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala was rejected on merits under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide this Ministry's letter No. 8-76/87-FC dated 31.1.91. Subsequently, on receipt of a formal request for reconsideration of the proposal from the State Government of Kerala, the Central Government has constituted an Experts Committee for site inspection of the project area. The Committee has submitted its report and it is under examination. The decision on the proposal will be taken after completion of examination of the report of the Experts Committee.

Caustic Soda Plant on River Koel, Bihar

1607. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Statesment of 20th November, 1993 about the human tragedy that is unfolding in the Caustic Soda Plant located on river Koel in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Caustic Soda Plant of BCCP jointly managed by the Bihar Government and the Birlas is

responsible for the gross environmental mismanagement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the plant is not only hazardous to the human beings around but also is likely to affect the agriculture environment of the place;

(d) if so, what action Government have taken to avert this human tragedy; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Caustic Soda Plant is a joint venture of the Government of Bihar and the Birlas. The plant has installed necessary pollution control equipments but the effluents are not within the prescribed standards. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 3727/85 has ordered the industry to comply with the standards by 31.12.1993.

(c) The plant falls under hazardous category and can cause damage to human life and agriculture if adequate pollution control measures are not taken.

(d) The Government have taken the following measures:—

(i) The Bihar State Pollution Control Board has been regularly monitoring the plant.

(ii) The consent has been refused by the Board to operate the unit.

(e) Does not arise.

Invitation to Environment Ministers of Western and Eastern Countries For a Conference

1608. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS to be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that he has invited the Environment Ministers of several Western and Asian countries for a two-day conference in early 1994 on "Unresolved international environmental issues" alongwith representatives of the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 26th November, 1993;

(b) if so, how many countries have accepted his invitation so far and whether any Agenda has been finalised for the proposed meeting in India, indicating the venue thereof;

(c) whether any follow-up action taken by India alongwith other concerned countries on the decisions taken at the previous such conferences held in 1992-93 and so far on the need for more improvement of global environmental conditions; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Government of India has proposed to organise a meeting of Ministers of the Environment of select developed and developing countries to discuss global environmental issues and to informally review the action taken as a follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development of June 1992. The dates and venue of the conference will be firmed up keeping in view the convenience of the invited ministers.

Reserve Forest Land in Assam

1609. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Reserve Forest land in Assam at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of hectares of Reserve Forest land have been occupied by various illegal encroachers in Assam;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to remove illegal encroachment on this land?